

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

My annual Aspirin Award for the Dam' Fool Quotation of the Year is split between the magnificently illogical and inaccurate statements made by two of television's top executives. They weren't made in unguarded moments. One was made to the press, the other on a pre-taped segment for a nationwide television show. If either one of them had a sense of humor we might assume they were joking, but they weren't.

William Dozier, who produces "Batman"—a television comic strip which consistently makes the police and all law enforcement agencies look like idiots—had this to say to the press on the subject of morality:

"We are trying to say something. There should be a much greater respect for law and order, an adherence to the time-worn cliché that crime does not pay, a much broader determination on the part of the public to cooperate with law enforcement officers. All this is inherent in Batman. All through Batman some very basic moralities are expressed . . ."

This is incredible evidence of Dozier's lack of respect for the intelligence of the average American viewer. Does he actually expect people to believe this? The basic gag of "Batman" is that the police are so dumb in every emergency they are forced to seek the assistance of the most unlikely chaps in town, those two nice boys at Wayne Manor. Look, Mr. Dozier, it's a funny situation and a cute little show. Just let it ride, but don't try to feed us any more baloney about its moral qualities. It has none. We know it and you know it.

NOW, IF YOU think Dozier sounded silly, read the following comment by the president of the Columbia Broadcasting System's television division made on the recent NET program "What's Happening to Television?" I have been told that his boss, Frank Stanton, tried to have it withheld from the public.

"The golden age (of television) was perfectly dreadful," said John Schneider. "Some of the things that were done in the alleged 'golden age' simply wouldn't stand up today. Programs go off the air because they fail. 'Studio One' was not popular and it went off the air. It didn't go off the air because it was successful. Our goal is to have a successful program, to have

Club Chooses New Officers

The National Supply Management Club of the National Supply Division of Arco Steel Corporations election of officers was held last week, and the results were as follows: Henry Moreau, president. John Hofmaister, Vice-President. James Ruddy, Secretary and Ernest Treloar, Treasurer.

The club celebrates the twentieth year of its existence this month. Its purpose is to improve the standard of management and to promote the appreciation of supervision as a profession.



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a popular program." Later he added: "I'm hard pressed to say that there is anything wrong with the status quo." That was the president of CBS television network talking at the close of the most depressing television season in the history of the medium. If a network president can't see the difference between

"Studio One," "Omnibus" or "Playhouse 90" and "Gilligan's Island," "Green Acres" or "Beverly Hillsbillies," then at least he should have the good sense to keep quiet about it.

BETRICE Lillie will be the star of a proposed television series titled "Lady

Shaw (that's right) and the pilot film will be shot in Hollywood this fall.

Lillie fans, British consuls, and former English nannies all over the world need not be too alarmed. These things have a way of passing into oblivion before they get too far out of hand. The last series Miss Lillie toyed with was "The Pruitts of Southampton"

but when she became disenchanted the role was given to Phyllis Diller (to be seen on AEC in September).

THE EXTENT to which George Hamilton's recent social life in White House circles has affected his professional standing is evident in this announcement by NBC: "George Hamilton will be the host of 'Class of '67,' one-hour variety colorcast to be sneak-previewed on NBC network Sept. 10 . . . Last year it would have read: "A one-hour variety colorcast titled, 'Class of '67,' will be sneak-previewed on NBC Sept. 10. It will feature act George Hamilton . . ."

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